

Amendments to the Claims

The following Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): An audio processing method, comprising:
sequentially rendering audio summaries and transition audio segments with at least one transition audio segment rendered between each pair of sequential audio summaries, wherein each audio summary comprises digital content summarizing at least a portion of a respective associated audio piece.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein identical transition audio segments are rendered between pairs of sequential audio summaries.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 2, wherein each identical transition audio segment corresponds to a Gabor function in a time domain representation.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 3, wherein each Gabor function has a center frequency substantially corresponding to a center pitch of an adjacent audio summary.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the audio summaries and the interleaved transition audio segments are rendered consecutively.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein each audio summary is a representative segment of a respective associated audio piece.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising classifying audio pieces into categories in response to user input received during rendering of the associated audio summaries.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 7, further comprising building a playlist based on categories assigned to a set of audio pieces.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein at least one audio summary is linked to an associated audio piece.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 9, further comprising rendering an audio piece linked to an associated audio summary in response to user input received during rendering of the associated audio summary.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising rendering a given audio piece beginning at a location in the given audio piece linked to an audio summary associated with the given audio piece.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 11, further comprising rendering a second audio piece at a location in the second audio piece linked to a successive audio summary associated with the second audio piece.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising ordering audio summaries in a sequence based on similarity to a given audio summary.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 13, wherein audio summaries are rendered in accordance with the ordered sequence.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein each audio piece is associated with multiple audio summaries and a single audio summary is rendered automatically for each audio piece, and further comprising rendering an audio summary for a given audio piece in response to user input received during rendering of a preceding audio summary associated with the given audio piece.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising normalizing audio summaries to a common loudness level.

Claim 17 (original): An audio processing system, comprising:
a rendering engine operable to sequentially render audio summaries and transition audio segments with at least one transition audio segment rendered between each pair of sequential audio summaries.

Claims 18-38 (canceled)

Claim 39 (new): The method of claim 1, further comprising following links between multiple ones of the audio summaries and one of the audio pieces.

Claim 40 (new): The method of claim 1, wherein each of the transition audio segments corresponds to a monotone sound.

Claim 41 (new): The method of claim 1, wherein the rendering comprises rendering the audio summaries and the transition audio segments consecutively without any gaps between the audio summaries and the transition audio segments.

Claim 42 (new): The method of claim 1, further comprising, in response to user input during rendering of a current one of the audio summaries, rendering another audio summary in a hierarchical cluster of audio summaries including the current audio summary.

Claim 43 (new): The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving one or more user-specified categories for respective ones of the audio summaries while the audio summaries and the transition audio segments are being rendered.

Claim 44 (new): The method of claim 43, further comprising building one or more playlists based on the one or more user-specified categories.

Claim 45 (new): The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the audio summaries is associated with a pointer to a location in a respective one of the audio pieces.

Claim 46 (new): The method of claim 1, further comprising following a pointer from a given audio summary being rendered to a location in an associated audio piece specified by the pointer, and rendering the associated audio piece beginning at the specified location.

Claim 47 (new): The method of claim 46, further comprising terminating the rendering of the associated audio piece and resuming the sequential rendering of the audio summaries and the transition audio segments.

Claim 48 (new): The method of claim 47, wherein the terminating is initiated in response to user input.

Claim 49 (new): The method of claim 47, wherein the terminating is initiated in response to completion of the rendering of the associated audio piece.

Claim 50 (new): The system of claim 17, wherein the rendering engine is operable to assign user-specified categories to respective ones of the audio pieces in response to user input.

Claim 51 (new): The system of claim 50, wherein the rendering engine is operable to build a playlist based on the user-specified categories assigned to the ones of the audio pieces.

Claim 52 (new): The system of claim 17, wherein the rendering engine is operable to order audio summaries in a sequence based on similarity to a given audio summary.

Claim 53 (new): The system of claim 52, wherein the rendering engine is operable to render the audio summaries in accordance with the ordered sequence.

Claim 54 (new): The system of claim 17, wherein each audio piece is associated with multiple audio summaries, the rendering engine is operable to render a single audio summary automatically for each audio piece, and the rendering engine additionally is operable to render an audio summary for a given audio piece in response to user input received during rendering of a preceding audio summary associated with the given audio piece.

Claim 55 (new): The system of claim 17, wherein the rendering engine is operable to render the audio summaries and the transition audio segments consecutively without any gaps between the audio summaries and the transition audio segments.

Claim 56 (new): The system of claim 17, wherein the rendering engine is operable to receive one or more user-specified categories for ones of the audio summaries while the audio summaries and the transition audio segments are being rendered.

Claim 57 (new): The system of claim 56, wherein the rendering engine is operable to build one or more playlists based on the one or more user-specified categories.

Claim 58 (new): The system of claim 17, wherein the rendering engine is operable to follow a pointer from a given audio summary being rendered to a location in an associated audio piece specified by the pointer, and rendering the associated audio piece beginning at the specified location.

Claim 59 (new): The system of claim 58, wherein the rendering engine is operable to terminate the rendering of the associated audio piece and resume the sequential rendering of the audio summaries and the transition audio segments.